

L' EXTENSION VOTED BY TRANSIT BOARD

Subway on Fourteenth St. Eastern Line, Brooklyn, Opposed.

LONG DELAY FEARED

Action Antagonistic to Declared Policy of Estimate Board.

MAY HOLD UP MONEY

Contracts Will Be Made, but Estimate Body Holds Purse Strings.

The Transit Commission, antagonizing the declared policy of the Board of Estimate, announced yesterday it had voted in favor of elevated rather than subway construction for the uncompleted portion of the Fourteenth street-Eastern line in Brooklyn, which extends from near Bushwick avenue to a connection with the existing P. R. T. elevated lines in East New York. The extension is to be built largely over the right of way of the Long Island Railroad's single track Bushwick branch, where the city has obtained an easement.

The Board of Estimate on January 13 last, after a public hearing, went on record "as being opposed to the construction of elevated railroads in the streets of the city in connection with rapid transit extension."

Contracts for the work will now be prepared by the commission. Its early completion is one of the most pressing needs of the present transit situation. But the Board of Estimate holds the purse strings. It may at will hold up contract appropriations indefinitely.

For the first time since the Transit Commission came into existence last May it determined an important policy by a divided vote or two to one. Majorities OTYan favored subway construction.

Commissioner Harkness said he was opposed to additional elevated construction wherever avoidable, but was moved by unusual conditions in this case. George McAneny, chairman, voted with Commissioner Harkness.

Mr. Harkness said that if this had been a new question the commission would have been unanimous for subway construction. But the city nine years ago had contracted with the New York Municipal Railway Corporation for elevated construction over this right of way, which lies not through city streets, but above the track of a steam railroad. As a matter of law, the contract cannot now be changed without the assent of the transit corporation concerned. That concurrence has been refused by Lindsey M. Garrison, receiver, who stands on his original contractual rights.

"But the vital consideration with me," said Mr. Harkness, "explains his vote to his colleagues of the commission. 'Is that the attempt now to change from elevated to subway construction would delay for two years operation of the line. During that period the teeming population in Brownsville and other districts served by the Broadway elevated would have to be carried into the center street loop and transferred at Canal street.'"

As an additional reason for his vote Mr. Harkness said the proposed substitution of a subway would saddle the city with an additional charge of between \$5,000,000 and \$6,000,000.

Chairman McAneny said he had reached conclusions in accord with those of Mr. Harkness.

ASKED TO AMEND SIMPSON-JESSE BILL
Would Add to Powers of Transit Commission.
The City Club in a memorandum made public yesterday, prepared for submission to the Legislature in support of the Simpson-Jesse bill to amend the Public Service Commission law in regard to the powers of the Transit Commission, approves the bill and suggests even more definite representation by the city on the operating board than is prescribed in the bill. The bill proposes strengthening the powers of the commission in vital matters dealing with the transit companies and their security holders and also the conferring of corporate power upon the proposed board of control and the operating companies which it is to organize.

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DOCTOR LENDS BANDIT \$5 AFTER RETURN OF HIS \$11

Guy Burns Says Holdup Man Had Asked for Drugs and Insisted at Gun's Point in Obtaining Money—Then He Relented.

Dr. Guy Wendell Burns of 49 West Fifty-seventh street telephoned the West Forty-seventh street police station at 7 o'clock Tuesday night and told the police of an unusual occurrence. Detective Manney went to the Fifty-seventh street house.

Dr. Burns told the detective that at 5 o'clock last Tuesday afternoon a man came into his office and said he wanted treatment. The physician asked him to sit down, and the bandit did so. Then he drew a gun, the physician said, leveled it and said:

"Now you sit down."
So the physician sat down, he told the detective, and nothing was said for a while. Then the man inquired: "Any money?"
"Yes," said Dr. Burns. "He told Detective Manney that he reached into his outer coat pocket, drew out \$11 in bills and handed them to the bandit, who put them into his pocket. But almost immediately, the doctor said, the man pulled the money out and handed it back to the physician."

"I don't want money," he said. "I want dope."

Dr. Burns told the detective that the man asked him for veronal, and said:

that he was not able to buy it. The police do not understand why he should have told the physician that he could not obtain veronal, as any one can purchase it who wants it. At any rate, the man told the doctor that he needed drugs but did not know how to get them.

Dr. Burns told Detective Manney that he talked to the man for half an hour or more, and that the man told him his name was Carroll, that he lived at the Pennsylvania Hotel and owed seven days' board, at \$7 a day. The detective said that the Pennsylvania Hotel records do not show that any one named Carroll was staying there that owed that much, and that the hotel managers know nothing of the man.

The physician said that after a half hour, during which the man told him he was a drug fiend, the bandit got up and started out. He had reached the door when the physician said: "You had better let me help you out." "No," the man said. "I can get some money some way." Dr. Burns said that he insisted, however, and finally the man accepted \$5 which the physician handed to him. Two hours later the doctor decided to report the case.

DOG IN SCHOOLYARD BITES 5 FOR TAUNTS

Boys Throw Rocks, Then Cry 'Mad Dog'—Animal Is Killed.

A small black and white dog ran into the yard of the parochial school of the Church of Our Lady of Sorrows at Forty-eighth street and 20th avenue, Corona, yesterday at noon while between thirty and forty children were playing. The dog ran aimlessly about, paying attention to no one, until some of the boys began chasing him and throwing stones at him.

Then the dog turned on the children and began snapping at them. The boys who had tormented the animal yelled, "Mad dog!" and the children scattered, some of them running into the street and others hurrying into the schoolroom. Before all could get out the yard the dog had bitten five.

The dog finally was chased into a corner and shot by Patrolman John McGovern, on traffic duty near the school, and his head was sent to the Health Department for examination to determine if he had rabies.

The children were attended by Dr. W. J. Norris of Corona, who cauterized their wounds and sent them home. The ones bitten were Harold Honahan, 9, of 24 Astoria avenue; Drexler Coyler, 10, of 35 Fifty-second street; Veronica Daily, 12, of 174 Forty-sixth street; Grace Dirigo, 10, of 42 Bursdale avenue, and Robert Clement, 10, of 9 South Railroad avenue, all of Corona.

OLDEST POLICE CHIEF DIES.

HERKIMER, N. Y., March 8.—John T. Manion, Chief of Police of Herkimer, was found dead in a chair in his home today. His wife, awakening in the morning and not seeing her husband in his room, went downstairs and discovered his body.

Chief Manion was 69 years old and was the oldest Chief of Police in the State in point of years of service, having served thirty-one years.

HIGH PHONE RATES INFLATE RESERVES

\$18,321,592 Thus Added to Depreciation Account, Fertig Asserts.

According to testimony given before the Public Service Commission yesterday, the New York Telephone Company has inflated its depreciation account to the extent of \$18,321,592 in connection with its operation in New York city. M. M. Fertig, Assistant Corporation Counsel, put in record the opinion of J. C. Wray, consulting engineer for the city, that the depreciation account on December 31, 1921, should have been only \$27,056,384, whereas it was \$45,377,976, or 33.75 per cent. of the book cost of the property.

In 1921 alone, Mr. Wray testified, the company had put \$2,124,064 more in the depreciation account than was actually necessary. The amount put in was \$2,948,887, which was at the rate of 5.67, whereas, Mr. Wray said, a rate of 3.94 per cent, or \$4,824,823, would have been ample. Mr. Fertig said these unnecessary reserves had been accumulated out of excessive rates charged to the company's customers in New York city.

It is a matter of record in the proceedings, which is for a reduction of rates, that the Public Service Commission in 1914 had allowed the company a property value of \$85,795,590, which was \$15,000,000 in excess of the valuation of the property as shown on the books that year. It also has been developed that the book cost of the property has increased from about \$65,000,000 in 1914 to \$146,468,962 in 1921.

C. G. Hill, an assistant of Mr. Wray, explained technical steps used by his chief in arriving at depreciation charges. Adjournment was taken to March 22.

NEWSPAPER CLUB TO MEET.

A meeting of the Newspaper Club will be held in room 214 of the County Court House on Saturday at 2:30 o'clock. The directors have passed on the constitution and by-laws of the organization, and it will be submitted for approval.

DIES RATHER THAN RENOUNCE BRITAIN

Man Jumps Into Bay Because He Had to Become U. S. Citizen to Hold Job.

William Morgan Robbins, aged 60, an architect, whose body was recovered Tuesday from the lower bay off Fort Hamilton, died rather than renounce his allegiance to the British crown, the police of the Missing Persons Bureau were informed yesterday. Robbins, a native of Wales, had lived for a short time at the home of Herbert L. Van Cott, 159 Taylor street, West New Brighton, Staten Island, and it was Mr. Van Cott who told the police of the dead man's loyalty to Great Britain and the reason for his suicide.

Robbins, he said, once was a prosperous architect, but years of adversity finally forced him three years ago to take a position as a clerk at the City Farm Colony on Staten Island. Early this year he was discharged when he refused to file a petition for American citizenship, a step necessary to retain his place. It was found that a short time later he had pawned his last set of architectural tools and that on last Saturday he had pledged his overcoat for a loan. Mr. Van Cott identified the man's body after it had been found in the bay.

ONLY USELESS SURFACE LINES TO BE SCRAPPED

Harkness Says Brooklyn Projects Will Be Heeded.

In a speech last night before the Flatbush Taxpayers' Association, Le Roy T. Harkness, Transit Commissioner, said, in part:

"The public reaction in Brooklyn to the suggested rerouting of Brooklyn surface lines, involving the elimination of more than one hundred miles of present trackage, indicates an active and robust public sentiment. The commission has received criticism and suggestion from many directions, and mass meetings in various sections have been held and are being projected. In the case of one line proposed for abandonment, a petition signed by 80,000 citizens has been presented to the commission. Such a petition is not necessary because the commission will get and will fairly consider their points of view."

"The whole idea is to eliminate only such lines as have survived their usefulness and to put the money and energy now utilized in their operation into a more intensive operation of the really serviceable surface lines."

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